



Charlotte Webmaster <webmaster@charlottemi.org>

Comments

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To: "webmaster@charlottemi.org" <webmaster@charlottemi.org>

Hello,

I'll start this email by clearly stating I am no long a property tax paying resident of the community as I have moved to Pottersville, but still do work and spend quite a bit of time in the community. I would like to make a couple of comments in regards to the new City Beat!

- 1) Great Idea! Props to who's idea it was to start.
- 2) Vaping – Forming a committee that is clearly going to recommend establishing an ordinance that either prevents the sale of vaporizer products or makes them difficult to purchase is something that I don't understand. What I do understand is there are risks that come with vaping and they haven't been around long enough to even know how bad the effects can be. With that said, we know what the long term effects of tobacco, alcohol, and high amounts of fast food can do to people and yet (as far as I'm aware) Charlotte doesn't have any ordinances that make obtaining any of those 3 items tougher to get here compared to other communities. In fact, we loosened our alcohol rules with allowing sale on Sundays before noon and allowing gas stations to sell it. My point is, there are other ways of stopping kids from using vaporizers before the age of 18 by imposing stricter penalties on those who choose to do so.
- 3) Community Strategic Planning – During my brief time on the planning commission, I recall the council discussed providing funding to members of the commission to attend trainings that would help them perform their job better and honestly more legally. That idea was shot down. Now, if I am reading correctly, the council has approved funding to pay for an outside firm that is going to tell Charlotte a plan to address the city's issue. To be honest, I find that unbelievable. Developing a plan to attack the cities issues is no easy task, but with a mayor in his 2nd term, long standing council members, and a city manager that I believe has a great understanding of our community can come up with a solid plan. If they want to charge a couple hundred dollars, sure, get their help, but I assume the cost of this plan will be in the thousands.

For what it is worth, I'd also like to comment on the Marijuana Ordinance discussion that I know has been taking place. Establishing an ordinance that prohibits a dispensary from opening in the city would be a decision that the community would come to regret. Even just allowing one, that is far from the schools and has sufficient security, would be just fine. Having a dispensary will not increase the number of people who use marijuana. It won't make it any easier for kids to get their hands on it. Let's say a new restaurant wants to come into the old Dolson building and they want to serve alcohol. We as a community would roll out the red carpet for them, celebrating the establishment of a new business here in town. AS WE SHOULD. Yet, very few would bat an eye at the idea they sell a product that kills 10,000's of people every year. Let's be clear, we should accept the restaurant with open arms, just as we should with ONE dispensary.

I Support the community of Charlotte and I am proud to be born and raised here. These are just some of my feelings. I understand the job of the city council and city staff is a difficult one, which most do not understand. Thank you for your time and I hope my thoughts have not come across as angry or insulting.

Thank you,

Joe Daly

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